



## MESSAGE IS PRESENTED

### Mayor Wise Reads Annual Document.

## INTERESTING FACTS

### Astoria's Chief Executive Points Out Evils That Have Been Cured.

## PREDICTS BRILLIANT FUTURE

### Council Meets in Regular Session Last Evening and Transacts Much Business—Committees Are Reappointed—Dr. Reames Named as City Physician.

The common council in response to a call by the Mayor met in special session at the City Hall yesterday at 12 noon for the purpose of listening to the reading of the Mayor's message to that body, and for the further purpose of fixing a time for the regular sessions of the council for the ensuing year.

Promptly at the hour named the council was called to order by His Honor, the Mayor, all of the members being present. At the conclusion of the roll-call and reading of the call for special session, the Honorable Mayor, Herman Wise, read to the body his annual message, which follows:

Astoria, Ore., Jan. 6, 1908.

To the Honorable Gentlemen of the Common Council:

At the threshold of this, my third and last year as Mayor of Astoria, I desire to congratulate you, and through you, the people of this city, upon the splendid progress made during the year just passed. The prospects for the ensuing year are most promising. While appreciating all these manifestations of material progress the year 1907 will be remembered principally as the year when the City of Astoria advanced to a clearer, higher position among the cities of the Northwest.

The charge that "Astoria is the toughest town in Oregon" can no longer truthfully be made. About forty years ago, when Astoria was a mere village and the salmon industry first assumed important proportions, most of the fishermen came here from the Sacramento River every spring, and at the close of each season they were wont to return to California. It was then said, "these strangers, with pockets full of gold, are sure to become the prey to the pit-falls now flourishing in San Francisco; we might as well pluck them first." Thus the "BUSINESS" originated and it grew in importance until most of us came to believe that it was one of Astoria's chief industries—without which the business and professional world could not prosper, nor the city pay its running expenses.

As the veteran soldier becomes used to the sight of blood and carnage, as the thunder of shot and shell makes him oblivious to the agonizing cries of his maimed comrades, so did we become hardened and it mattered little who fell by the wayside, whose boys and girls were ruined, so long as our own were safe, and our business shared in the profits. Finally the climax was reached for particulars of which I refer to my special message of March 10th last. It happened to be my misfortune to be Mayor at this time. Had I anticipated such a dilemma I might well have hesitated to accept the office; many of the men engaged in dance halls and gambling had treated me most liberally, none had done me harm and it was a nerve-racking trial to proceed against them, but we are creatures of destiny and must meet difficulties as best we can. I would not be a putty Mayor; finding myself on the firing line it was necessary to either shoot or run. I could not honorably run—even as father and son, brother and friend, had to oppose each other in the Civil War for a PRINCIPLE. Hardly had one question been settled, when last August the district attorney of this district, like the district attorneys in most other Oregon districts, and they, like the prosecuting attorneys in other states, were forced by an overwhelming public opinion to stop wide-open, indiscriminate, gambling. This city, however, had become so accustomed to depending for part of its revenues upon these sources, that the

loss of it seemed to many a calamity. Yet the earth has continued to revolve, the sun has not ceased to shine, and the City of Astoria still lives, an independent, prosperous municipality.

The tax levy for the coming year has been fixed, and while the obsolete methods of undervaluing property may give the stranger the false impression that taxes are high, our people will not, in fact, be called upon to pay as high a tax per capita as will be paid by the people of many other cities in Oregon and Washington, nor as high as Astorians have paid in years gone by, as is exemplified by the following statement procured after considerable research. In answer to inquiries addressed to the Mayors of the principal cities in the two states I received these replies:

City	Est. Pop.	Direct Taxes (Excl. License)	Per Capita
Astoria, Ore.	15,000	\$37,411.12	\$2.50
Eugene, Ore.	5,000	35,000.00	7.00
Albany, Ore.	8,000	18,289.53	3.60
Salem, Ore.	15,000	30,038.00	2.00
Portland, Ore.	200,000	912,670.49	4.55
Aberdeen, W.	10,000	58,000.00	5.80
Everett, W.	25,000	108,538.34	4.35
Seattle, W.	200,000	1,100,904.96	5.50
Walla Walla.	20,000	75,070.16	3.75

I also find that the running expenses of the whole city are but little more than the expenses of the Astoria school district, as shown by the report of the school clerk. The total running expenses of the City of Astoria last year exclusive of street improvements and other special charges) were \$65,919.29. The total expenses of the school district last year were \$52,324.83.

Everybody concedes that the Astoria School District is being managed with prudence and ability; yet who will suggest that the Honorable School Board get part of its revenue from dance halls and gambling? If it were wrong for the School Directors to secure revenue from fines imposed upon vice, why should decent taxpayers expect the Common Council to do this wicked thing?

I also submit figures taken from the records showing the amount of taxes paid by the people of Astoria (independent of the county and school taxes) during the last four years when the city itself collected its taxes:

Year	City Taxes
1890	\$22,147.00
1891	51,381.72
1892	98,744.45
1893	35,902.31

The city taxes levied for next year amount to only \$37,451.12. This in face of the fact that we have doubled in population, now have more fire and police protection, are assisting the Park and Library Funds, have more and better streets and about three times the number of street lights. Is there, then, just cause to say that the people of Astoria will have to pay burdensome taxes because of the loss of revenue from illicit sources?

However, if a low tax levy be our only goal, if Astoria ever becomes so impoverished as to be obliged to sell her reputation and be called "The Outcast City," if a low tax levy seems of more importance than the city's good name or the virtue of our children—then I submit that the \$15,000 received annually as "blood money" is too small a sum. If the wages of sin is death, then let us strike for the highest possible wages—the traffic will bear it. I am prepared to show that there is enough money in the "Business" to pay the entire running expenses of the city, take up our bonded indebtedness, and still leave a good margin to those who managed the unlawful enterprises.

The police records for last year show that there were:

15 cigar machines; estimated daily receipts, each \$2.50,	total	\$ 37.50
10 nickel-in-the-slot machines; estimated daily receipts, each, \$5.00, total		500.00
40 wheels, tables and other devices; estimated daily receipts, each, \$10.00, total		400.00
Estimated total per day		\$ 97.50
Total per year (365 days)		\$360,000
"Taken In" at dance halls (approximately)		50,000
Grand total		\$400,000

This is a conservative figure, as all well know. The vast amount of close to half a million dollars spent annually in riotous living! Isn't this appalling? The same money turned into legitimate channels cannot fail to greatly benefit this community. Another very bad feature has been the fact that a large proportion of this vast sum was taken away from here by the swarm of non-residents who, like birds of prey, used to come here in the Spring, leaving the town soon after the season was over with fat pocketbooks; and then, too, like the Great Captains of Monopoly, the "Interests" have made themselves obnoxious to the people by combining and attempting to dictate politics and policies to the Municipality. The greatest danger to any building is not the ravages of the elements from without, but the worms that silently, steadily, surely (working unseen) undermine the structure; so the greatest danger to the social fabric are the vices that gnaw at the vitals, endangering the Home, the foundation of all society and of all good government. In this connection I am tempted to quote two lines from Goldsmith's "Deserted Village":

"Ill fares the Land, to hastening ills a prey,  
Where Wealth accumulates and men decay."

I say these things, not with bitterness

(Continued on page 2)

## MEANS WELL SAYS BRYAN

### Commoner Gives Opinion on Roosevelt.

## MAKES MANY MISTAKES

### Silver-Tongued Orator Addresses Jeffersonian Club of Omaha.

## QUESTION MOST IMPORTANT

### Whether the Government Shall Be Administered in the Interest of a Few Favorites or in the Interest of the Whole People.

OMAHA, Jan. 6.—Bryan was the principal speaker at the annual gathering of the Jeffersonian Club of Nebraska tonight.

"The moral element in pending issues," was his subject. He said in part:

"No question is ever settled until the moral element in the question is discussed and decided. Nothing, but a moral issue, that is, an issue involving justice, stirs the heart. The time is ripe for another appeal to conscience and indignation point to a greater study of public questions from the ethical standpoint. The corrupting influences which have flowed from mercenary politics have at last excited attention and there now is a searching of men and of measures as such as has not been known in recent times.

"The President's popularity largely, if not entirely, is due to a belief among the masses that he wants to do what is right, that he is trying to do justice to those who have been unjustly dealt with. He has made many mistakes and great ones, but these mistakes have to a large extent been overlooked by those who believe that his heart is right and that he means well. This is only an indication of public attitude.

"Another indication is to be found in the influence of voters. Not since the civil war have party lines hung so loosely and this is the natural result when voters become earnest in their desires that wrong shall be overturned and right vindicated.

"People differ as to the relative importance of the different issues, some placing the trusts first, some the tariff question as paramount, others believing the railroad question most important. But the fact is, they all point to the same issue and those who take the people's side on one of these questions are likely to take the people's side on either of the other two.

"The issues presented in each and all of these questions is whether the government shall be administered in the interest of a few favorites or in the interest of the whole people; whether the people shall be taxed that a few may be enriched."

## THAW TRIAL BEGINS.

### Nine Jurors Have so Far Been Selected—Defense to Plead Insanity.

NEW YORK, Jan. 6.—At the close of the three court sessions which marked this, the first day of the second trial of Harry K. Thaw for the alleged murder of Stanford White, nine tentative jurors were selected out of 57 takers. All the men in the jury box are subject to preemptory challenge. Legal insanity, at "ina" of the tragedy is to be the sole defense. This was made clear at the very outset of the proceedings today when Lawyer Littleton formally served notice that the former plea of not guilty was amended by the specification that defendant was insane when the homicide was committed. The trial opened with little or no ceremony.

The only women allowed present were members of the defendant's family and newspaper writers. Mrs. Evelyn Thaw was again the center of interest even to the exclusion of the defendant himself.

## WILL APPOINT RECEIVER.

### California Safe Deposit & Trust Company Insolvent.

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 6.—Presiding Judge Coffey, of the superior court, will tomorrow appoint a receiver for the California Safe Deposit & Trust Co., which closed its doors last November owing its depositors nearly nine million dollars. President J. Dalzell Brown, Director W. J. Barnett and James Treadwell, another director, is in the county jail charged with embezzlement in connection with the wrecking of the institution in which twelve thousand depositors had placed their money. Investigation by the grand jury revealed a course of frenzied finance reckless of banking methods almost without parallel. It is admitted the bank is insolvent.

## ENVOY RETURNS.

### Minister Lemieux Has Nothing to Say About Mission.

VICTORIA, Jan. 6.—Hon. Rudolphe Lemieux, Canadian envoy to Japan, regarding the proposed restrictions of Japanese immigration, returned today. He would not make a statement before reporting to the Ottawa government, but it is learned on high authority no arrangement has yet been concluded regarding the restriction of emigration from Japan to Canada, but the promise is obtained that Japan would restrict emigration from Japan to Canada.

## TO JAIL FOR RUEF.

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 6.—Judge Dunne announced today he would issue an order, Wednesday terminating the emigration in the case of Abe Ruef, who, pending the graft trials, has been kept in a private prison. Ruef will be handed over to the custody of the sheriff-elect as soon as he takes the oath of office.

## DECISION REVERSED

### Case of Congressman Williamson Remanded Back.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 6.—The case of former Congressman J. N. Williamson, of Oregon, charged with unlawfully cutting timber on the public lands in Crook county, Oregon, in conspiracy with 100 others, was decided by the supreme court of the United States today in favor of Williamson.

The United States circuit court for Oregon imposed a fine of \$500 and sentenced Williamson to prison for 10 months, but the supreme court reversed that decision.

The reversal of the decision of the lower court was based upon the irregularity in admitting affidavits. Justice White announced the opinion. "We are of the opinion," said Justice White, "that the elaborate argument made by the government, concerning the use, in the indictment, of the words 'declarations' and 'depositions,' can serve only to suggest an ambiguity in the indictment and a possible doubt as to meaning of the pleadings. But as, of course, in a criminal case, doubt must be resolved in favor of the accused, we hold that the indictment does not charge conspiracy to suborn perjury in respect to final proofs, and therefore, that there was prejudicial error committed in the instructions to the jury on that subject."

Justice White considered, at some length, the requirement of general land office that applicants, if they had made their preliminary sworn statements, must again swear to such facts, after notice of his application had been published and the time had arrived for final action on the application, and he concludes the requirement to be invalid.

The case therefore, was remanded to the United States circuit court for the district of Oregon. Justice White discussed, at length, the contention of Williamson that his office, as a member of Congress, protects him from arrest, concluding that: "Since the terms treason, felony, and breach of peace," as used in the constitutional provision, excepts from the operation of the privilege, all criminal offenses, the conclusion resulting that the claim of privilege from exemption from arrest and sentence, was without merit.

## COMMERCIAL BODY MEETS

### Annual Session of Chamber of Commerce.

## OFFICERS ARE ELECTED

### Retiring President J. W. Welch Will Donate Site for Carnegie Library.

## W. T. SCHOLFIELD PRESIDENT

### Big and Public-Spirited Assemblage of Members Make a Record Mark in the Chamber's History—Interesting Reports Filed.

## NEW OFFICERS.

- President.....W. T. Scholfield
- Vice-President.....G. Wingate
- Secretary.....John H. Whyte
- Treasurer.....C. R. Higgins

A hundred or more representative citizens of Astoria were assembled at the first meeting of the Astoria Chamber of Commerce, last night, to initiate the year's work and elect their new officers for 1908.

President J. W. Welch presided, with Secretary John H. Whyte, and Assistant Secretary James Wallace, at his elbow with the records and documents incident to the session and its business. The formal opening of the Chamber was effected in regular fashion, and a call was made for the submission of the practical suggestions called for by the secretary recently; and these simply poured in, each and all being cordially and heartily received and promptly referred to the committees most nearly allied to their accomplishment in the future. These, of course, were preceded by the reading of the reports of President Welch and Secretary Whyte, which appear at length in these columns).

Among the apt suggestions submitted, were the following, each followed by appropriate comment, in turn: A. R. Cyrus, for the establishment of a ride-range for the use of the army, navy and national guard near Astoria; referred to committee consisting of A. R. Cyrus, J. H. Whyte, and C. J. Trencard.

By G. Wingate, for the fixing of seaboard terminal rates for Astoria, in and out of port, and suggesting the complimentary benefits that would inure to the port and city; referred to the promotion committee.

By C. W. Carnahan, for the location of an experimental spawning pond for salmon for tests in ripening and spawning that game fish near this market and field. Referred to the committee on fisheries.

By W. J. Ingalls, asking consideration for the essential needs of the city and county by way of additional sawmills, a tannery, a boot and shoe factory, a marble-yard, a pulp mill and several other good things inseparable from these adjuncts. Referred to the committee of manufacturers.

By A. R. Cyrus, for the establishment of a green-house in the city. Already under consideration in the Chamber.

By Dr. J. A. Fulton, urging the assistance of the Chamber to the committee in charge of the oil and gas project in the matter of securing leases of land in that behalf. Passed to the next regular meeting.

By F. N. Clark, for the cutting up of large bodies of land into small acreage, five and ten-acre tracts. Mr. Clark touched upon the advertising work of the Chamber in the past year and counseled patience in waiting for the real results of that scheme; and also alluded to the year 1908 as the real year of destiny for Astoria in happy fashion. Some one suggested that it was leap year and that perhaps Mr. Clark was enthused from that standpoint.)

By W. J. Ingalls, reverting to the excellent work done by the Chamber in the way of advertising, and his conclusion that it had enhanced property values in this section.

By Dr. Estes, suggesting that the collector of dues for the Chamber have a schedule whereby members could pay at given seasons. The secretary was instructed to list the doctor for the months he had missed and to collect in full for what time he had been overlooked, or sidestepped.

By A. N. Smith, for the development of the strawberry in this county on the coast acreage; and for the raising of the street grades in Astoria; also for more sawmills.

By Mr. Bush, of Svensen, for smaller fruit farms and tract acreage, and especially for roads leading to them.

By William Larson, for an extended apple culture and better care of the small fruits in this county.

By W. T. Scholfield, for the raising of small fruits and raising of Astoria's street grades; and for the better care of orchards throughout Clatsop county.

By Brenham Van Dusen, for the acquirement of more sawmills, and for the collating of records of people with sites for such mills and ready offerings in value in this behalf.

By W. J. Ingalls, offering a ten-acre tract free, as a bonus to any man or firm who would establish, on his Lewis and Clark farm, a sawmill, a tannery, a pulp mill, or a shoe factory. This was the keynote of generous expression of the evening and was thoroughly well received, and it stands just as Mr. Ingalls made it.

This closed the filing of practical suggestions and the whole scheme was one of the brightest features ever introduced at a meeting of the Chamber and will be repeated from time to time.

The real business of the evening, the election of officers, then ensued, and the Chamber got down to business in good shape under the skillful handling of President Welch, who called for nominations for his successor in office.

W. T. Scholfield was nominated by A. N. Smith; J. W. Welch was put in line by Mr. Jeffers; and G. Wingate went to the front on the nomination of W. J. Ingalls. There was plenty of good cheer and kindly backing for each of the candidates; but Mr. Welch, in declining the nomination, took occasion to honor Vice-President T. L. Ball, for the presidency, and this in turn was declined by the doctor; and as Benjamin Ward also withdrew the name of Mr. Wingate from nomination, the field was left with only Mr. Scholfield's name up for consideration. His election was made unanimous and carried with a whoop.

The vice-presidency then fell to G. Wingate upon an unanimous vote of the Chamber after A. Dunbar had declined a nomination for the post; and John H. Whyte was, of course, re-elected unanimously to his post, no other name being heard of in that relation.

The treasury report went to C. R. Higgins on a whirlwind vote after J. E.

(Continued on page 4)

## PUTER RE-ARRESTED.

PORTLAND, Jan. 6.—S. A. D. Puter is a free man, the pardon from the President, issued at the instance of Heney, arriving this afternoon. Puter was immediately re-arrested on a charge of subornation of perjury in connection with State school lands. He gave bail in the sum of \$1000 which was approved by the court. Puter announced his intention of reimbursing all persons who suffered by reason of his operations. Puter was 51 years old today.

## HENEY TALKS.

TUCSON, Ariz., Jan. 6.—Asked for a statement regarding the Williamson case, Heney, the special government prosecutor, tonight said: "I have not been officially notified of the decision of the supreme court and consequently can give no definite opinion on the matter. I will state, however, if Williamson has been granted a new trial he will be tried again."

## GEORGE DIXON DEAD.

NEW YORK, Jan. 6.—George Dixon, the famous negro pugilist and winner of hundreds of battles and perhaps several hundred thousand dollars, died today in the alcoholic ward of Bellevue hospital, penniless and friendless. He was 37 years old and for many years feather-weight champion of the world.

## MAINTAINS INNOCENCE.

NEWARK, N. J., Jan. 6.—Evidence unearthed in the case of Helen Whitmore, whose body was found in a pond near Harrison, leads the police to believe that two men were involved in the murder of the woman. Theodore Whitmore, the husband, during a severe examination today, though frequently giving way to tears, stoutly maintained he knew nothing of the murder.